

9. (Twice Amended) A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 1, wherein the sipe formed in the blocks at said side zones of [the] a tread extends parallel to or substantially parallel to the gently slant groove opening to the circumferential side groove.

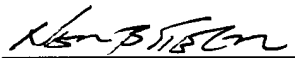
REMARKS

This amendment is submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(c). Claim 1 has been amended to define the other positioning to which chamfering occurs. Additionally, there is a redundancy in the claim in terms of the wording "so as to gradually shallow a depth of a surface of the block from the tapered top end in the longitudinal direction". That has been deleted. The changes to claims 8 and 9 correspond to those set forth by the Examiner in section 2 of the final action of July 6, 1999.

Entry of this amendment is thus requested because it eliminates an issue for purposes of appeal by placing the claims in a form in which compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph occurs. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this action, he is requested to contact the undersigned attorney of record at the local exchange listed below.

Please charge any fee, except for the Issue Fee, that may be necessary for the continued pendency of this application to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,


Neil B. Siegel
Registration No. 25,200

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK
& SEAS, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
TEL: (202) 293-7060

Date Filed: May 3, 2000